



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
John W. Corbett, Chairman



Linda S. Adams
*Secretary for Environmental
Protection*

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone: (877) 721-9203 (toll free) • Office: (707) 576-2220 • FAX: (707) 523-0135

**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

NOTICE of PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING

Concerning the development of an amendment to the Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to address Low Threat Discharges

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek input on the environmental information that should be considered in the development and adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to address low threat discharges.

BACKGROUND

The development of a Low Threat Discharge Amendment is necessary to provide exceptions to the Basin Plan seasonal point source discharge prohibitions. The amendment would create specific exceptions for discharges that can demonstrate no adverse impact on water quality and for which there are no other reasonable discharge alternatives. One possible method of providing the exceptions would be the development of a point source action plan related to low threat discharges, including incidental runoff of potable and recycled water. The scope of Regional Water Board staff considerations on this issue are listed in the attached informational document.

PURPOSE OF CEQA SCOPING

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for early public consultation on the development of the Low Threat Discharge Amendment. This consultation will assist the Regional Water Board in determining what environmental information responsible and trustee agencies, as well as other interested parties, may require to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed amendment.

Scoping is helpful to the Regional Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed prior to the decision making process. Scoping has been found to be an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected federal, State, and local agencies, the proponent of the actions, and other interested persons including those who might not be in accord with the proposed actions on environmental grounds. A quorum of Regional Water Board members may be present at the scoping meeting; however, no action will be taken by the Regional Water Board at the scoping meeting.

The public meeting, in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, will allow interested parties to provide comments on the potential environmental impacts from development and implementation of an amendment to the Basin Plan to allow for low threat discharges during periods when the Basin Plan prohibits all point source discharges to surface waters. Regional Water Board staff will present an overview of the scientific and technical principles underlying

the amendment and will discuss potential elements of the amendment that are being considered, including definitions of low threat discharge and incidental runoff, and a proposed general permit and an action plan to exempt low threat discharges from Basin Plan seasonal discharge prohibitions. An initial CEQA Scoping Meeting was held on this issue in August 2005. This project has since been on hold due to other higher priority projects and a shortage of Basin Planning staff.

SCOPING MEETING

Date: April 26, 2007

Time: Beginning no earlier than 1:30 p.m.

Place: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

An informational document describing the need for the amendment and proposed elements for the amendment may be obtained via the Internet on the Regional Water Board Web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/basin.html> . You may also receive a paper copy of the proposed Low Threat Discharge Amendment informational scoping document by writing to Ms. Lauren Clyde, NCRWQCB, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or email: lclyde@waterboards.ca.gov. You can also contact staff at (707) 576-2220 for additional information.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Municipal stormwater dischargers; reclamation entities; city, county and private water management officials; construction industry representatives; water well drillers; representatives of industries with potential low threat discharges; members and representatives of tribes; environmental groups; and other interested groups or individuals.

SUBMISSION OF CEQA SCOPING COMMENTS

The Regional Water Board will accept both written and oral suggestions on the scope and content of the information included in the scoping documents. Comments should be limited to identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and potential significant environmental effects to be analyzed in-depth in the development of this project. All submissions must be received on or before April 26, 2007. Written comments should be submitted to: Ms. Lauren Clyde, NCRWQCB, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. (Fax: 707-523-0135 or email: LClyde@waterboards.ca.gov .

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions and location information, please refer to:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/contact.html> . The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Jean Lockett, executive assistant, at (707) 576-2307 or JLockett@waterboards.ca.gov at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.